

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD (IRELAND).

RETURN to an Order of the Honourable The House of Commons,
dated 12 July 1880:—*fec.*

COPY "of REPORT made to the Local Government Board in *Ireland* by
Dr. C. J. NIXON, Temporary Medical Officer, respecting an Outbreak of
FEVER in the SWINFORD UNION, County Mayo."

Irish Office,
12 July 1880.

W. E. FORSTER.

(Swinford Union—21,278—80).

COPY OF DR. NIXON'S REPORT.

Imperial Hotel, Swinford,
8 July 1880.

Gentlemen,

BEFORE visiting Charlestown, in which I learned from your Inspector, Captain Spaight, no case of fever at present existed, I proceeded to the Fever Hospital at Swinford, and have the honour of submitting my Report upon the cases which are under treatment there, and replying to the queries mentioned in your Order of the 5th July (19,601).

The list of the admissions to the Fever Hospital during the month of June, and up to the present, is:—

For week commencing 3rd June 1880	-	-	-	5
" " 10th June "	-	-	-	3
" " 17th June "	-	-	-	9
" " 24th June "	-	-	-	25
" " 1st July "	-	-	-	6

The summary of deaths for the past three weeks is:—

For week commencing 3rd June 1880	-	-	-	1
" " 24th June "	-	-	-	1
" " 1st July "	-	-	-	5

With regard to external cases, I am informed by the Catholic Curate that two girls, the daughters of a shopkeeper in the town, had fever (most probably typhus); but with the exception of these two cases, that of Dr. O'Grady, the medical officer of the workhouse, and one case (Margaret Maloney, *ætat.* 3½ years), there has been no development of fever up to the present in the town.

Type of Fever.—All the cases admitted to hospital since Dr. Burke's visit (*cide* Report 19,601) were *typhus fever*.

The 20 cases which I personally examined in hospital were of the typical uncolated variety, with absence of diarrhoea and dysentery, a more or less constant development of head symptoms, and a marked degree of emaciation. I have noted the characteristics more at length, but as they are of a technical character, I need not trouble the Board with their enumeration. I have not met with, since I came here, any instance of the relapsing fever so common in the general epidemics of 1817-19, 1847-48, and in the local epidemic of 1826-28.

Steps taken to deal with the Disease.—Since I came here the Vice Guardians have taken the precaution of restricting the head nurse's duties entirely to the fever patients. Hitherto she had also the charge of the patients in the infirmary, but the occurrence of three cases of typhus fever amongst its inmates necessitated the change mentioned. Steps have been taken to secure the services of one or two trained nurses to give additional assistance in the workhouse hospital, and to attend to such cases outside as cannot be removed there. Further, this day, with the sanction of the Vice Guardians, I telegraphed for a fully qualified medical man to take charge of the fever hospital, and have just received a reply that one fully qualified will be here on Saturday next to undertake the duty. These steps were rendered necessary owing to the gravity of the cases at present under treatment.

I made an examination into the sanitary condition of Swineford, which I find to be extremely bad. In most of the small cabins (houses of the fourth class) there seem to be no sanitary arrangements whatever. They are greatly overcrowded, a family of eight or ten residing in a single-roomed hut 12 feet in length, 7 feet in height, and 8 feet in breadth. If typhus fever should become epidemic in Swineford, you have here the most favouring conditions for its spread. The Vice Guardians have, however, at my suggestion, ordered a sanitary inspection to be made of all such houses, lime washing to be generally employed, removal of all sewage matter in the public ways, and a thorough cleansing out of all the sewers. Steps have also been taken to disinfect the houses in the rural districts from which cases of typhus have been admitted to hospital. Further, an ambulance has been obtained to remove affected patients to hospital with as little delay as possible.

7.45 P.M.

To-day I visited, with Captain Spaight, Charlestown, Bellaghy, and Bulkaun. There is not time to send to-night a detailed report of what I observed in these districts, but I shall do so fully to-morrow. I may, however, say that there is no case of fever of any kind in Charlestown at the present time. There are four cases of typhus fever in one house in Bellaghy, and one case of typhus in Bulkaun. All these cases have been fully attended to.

I have, &c.
(signed) C. J. Nixon.

The Local Government Board.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT BOARD
(IRELAND).

COPY of REPORT made to the Local Government
Board in Ireland by Mr. G. J. WYSE, Township
Medical Officer, regarding an Outbreak of Typhoid
in the Barrowmore Union, County Mayo.

(Mr. William Edmund Power.)

Ordered by the House of Commons, to be Printed,
18 July 1889.

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